

enough money to bring his parents and four siblings to America.

Before retiring to the beach in Bayville, Rocco worked as a butcher in Elizabeth, New Jersey and raised his two children with Michelina, Vito and Maria. He is survived by his wife, two children and two grandchildren, Michelle and Julian, who I know will think back on their time with Rocco and cherish the wonderful memories they created together.

Rocco will always be remembered as a loving and caring man, whose greatest accomplishment was his family and the joys they shared together. To his immediate and extended family, especially to Michelina, Vito, Maria, Michelle and Julian, as well as Rocco's siblings Sal, Carmine, Renato, Ugo and Geraldina, I offer my sincerest condolences for your loss.

On behalf of Rocco's entire family, I am proud to share his story with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives and to pay tribute to the life of such a great man.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOYERTOWN BOROUGH

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Boyertown, Berks County as the community commemorates the Borough's 150th Anniversary.

Incorporated in 1866, Boyertown takes its name from founding brothers Henry and Daniel Boyer—two of the many visionaries during the past century and a half who have called Boyertown their home.

The Boyer brothers were business owners and a robust spirit of ingenuity and entrepreneurship has always been part of the Borough's rich history. Whether it was mining iron ore, rolling cigars, building caskets, assembling carriages, founding a national bank or operating small shops and inns, residents always have demonstrated an incredible work ethic and exuded extraordinary pride in "building a better Boyertown."

As the community pays tribute to the defining moments and key figures of the past 150 years, the future of Boyertown is equally worth celebrating. The rebirth of the Colebrookdale Railroad, a revitalized downtown with unique boutiques and restaurants and a renewed appreciation for vibrant historical and cultural attractions, such as the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles, are all reasons to believe Boyertown's future will be bright.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the residents, business owners and community leaders as Boyertown celebrates this memorable milestone.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chair, this amendment includes my resolution to express appreciation of our disabled veterans and recognize October 5th as an appropriate date to honor them each year. This coincides with the anniversary of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. I thank Chairman JEFF MILLER for his support.

Thankfully, my son, a U.S. Marine, returned safely from two wars. Regrettably, there are many veterans for whom the fight doesn't end when they come home.

My constituent Jeff Colaiacovo is one of those people. A few months into his first tour in Vietnam, Jeff's tank hit a mine, exploding shards of metal into his eyes, blinding him. Miraculously, the doctors recovered his vision. Months later, a grenade hit Jeff's tank and flames engulfed his body. After spending months in burn units, he was honorably discharged. He raised a family and started a small business.

Jeff is disabled for life. He bears the scars of duty that remind us of what he and many others gave to serve us. In honor of Jeff and our four million disabled veterans, I urge adoption of this package.

OFFERING A WARM WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, TSAI ING-WEN

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tsai Ing-wen, who will soon be sworn in as the new President of the Republic of China (ROC or sometimes Taiwan). I cannot overstate the importance of the U.S.-Taiwan strategic relationship. This relationship is not built on just mutual security and peace; it also involves extensive trade, tourism and cultural awareness.

Taiwan has undergone many changes over the decades since World War II, and its peaceful democratic transition of power is a testament to the progress and development of this hard-working country. Ms. Tsai Ing-wen will take the reins of a government that has provided peace and economic security for its people and has made Taiwan a household name throughout the world.

Arizona is blessed to have a strong connection with Taiwan, including Phoenix as a sister city with Taipei.

I extend my sincere congratulations to President Tsai Ing-wen and I am confident that she will excel and exceed the expectations of the voters that put her in office. I look forward to great things from Taiwan in the years to come.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4974) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chair, I strongly support grant funding for construction of state extended care facilities included in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which will go towards facilities like the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Lucie County, Florida. Our veterans should be receiving extraordinary care, and these facilities will provide those who fought for our nation with the long-term care they have earned.

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs recently resubmitted its grant application to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for construction funding for the State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Lucie County. I am hopeful and urge that this bill will fully fund the new facility on Florida's Treasure Coast, including the costs to adhere to Community Living Center standards. This facility will be the first of its kind in Florida and fill an existing nursing home service gap in our state.

I have been a strong advocate for the Copas facility, which will be a huge asset to our community and our veterans. The nursing home will provide health care, follow-up assistance, and long-term care services that we can be proud of, all while providing these services closer to home for many veterans. In addition to assisting veterans residing in St. Lucie County, it will also serve those in neighboring Martin, Indian River, Okeechobee, and Highlands counties as well as portions of six other nearby counties. This facility's location gives it the ability to reach approximately over 200,000 veterans with more than half of these veterans over the age of 65.

These important grants will advance long-term veterans care on the Treasure Coast and across the country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical funding.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND SERVICE OF DR. DAVID SPENCER UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MILTON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise and recognize Dr. David Spencer upon his retirement from First Baptist Church of Milton, Florida. Throughout his more than forty-five years as a pastor, including